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	Data Call for Planne	d Comput	ter Term	inal Acc	quisitions
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28 JAN 1905

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

FROM:

Daniel A. Childs, Jr.

Comptroller

SUBJECT:

Data Call for Planned Computer Terminal Acquisitions

- 1. The purpose of this memorandum is to solicit your support for a data call to the Agency directorates which will address 1985, 1986, and 1987 planned acquisitions of Delta Data terminals, Wang word processors, and stand-alone personal computers (PC). The data would help us determine if there are any funding tradeoffs between these planned acquisitions and the DDA-generated Network Enhancements and Workstation Upgrade (NEWS) initiative.
- 2. Although NEWS is in the developmental stages and probably will not be fully operational before the 1987-90 timeframe, now is the time to get a handle on current workstation acquisitions and possible future funding offsets.
- 3. Based on various briefings and memoranda, it is our understanding that the NEWS workstation will:
 - -- Provide the connectivity to the new Agency Local Area Network (LAN), which in turn will allow utilization of high speed data rates.
 - -- Meet DDI requirements for a modern workstation as well as the tasking by the Information Systems Board (ISB) to provide a multipurpose workstation and/or PC to interface with the Agency's mainframe computer systems.
 - -- Provide the Agency with terminal equipment that can take advantage of planned upgrades to major systems such as SAFE, CAMS, ALLSTAR, etc.
 - -- Provide independent/standalone PC capabilities for functions such as word processing, spread sheet development and analysis, and computer graphics.

It is also understood that NEWS will make less use of COMTEN devices such as the ones currently required for Delta Datas and Wangs. Instead, NEWS will require a series of control units and front end processors. Finally, the NEWS initiative includes the acquisition of some workstations during the 1985-90 timeframe. Clearly some portion of these workstations can be used in lieu of Delta Datas or Wangs.

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- 4. With the planned capabilities of the NEWS multifunction workstation(s) and a reduction in the need for COMTEN devices, it would appear that there are some funding offsets between NEWS and currently planned terminal/workstation and/or peripheral devices acquisitions. Therefore, I recommend that a data call questionnaire be developed and submitted to the directorates and the results be analyzed and shared between the directorates, ISB, Office of the Comptroller, and Office of Information Technology. Even if no funding offsets are discovered, the information provided should be useful to the ISB, OIT, and the directorates in determining the future direction of NEWS and Agency workstation requirements and acquisitions. While either this Office or OIT could issue the data call, we believe the request would carry more weight if it came from the Executive Director or the ISB.
- 5. If you agree that a data call and subsequent analysis is a worthwhile project, I will assign someone from my staff to work with the ISB and/or OIT to develop a questionnaire and to assist with the data analysis.

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Daniel A. CMilds, Jr.